UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

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A/AC.109/L.1757
30 July 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Report of the Acting Chairman

1. At its 1365th meeting, on 6 August 1990, the Special Committee adopted a resolution concerning the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. 1/ The operative paragraphs of the resolution read as follows:

"The Special Committee,

"...

"1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

"2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

"3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

"4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate."

READEX FICHE

2. An account of the consultations held in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution is set out below.

3. During the week of 22 July 1991, the Acting Chairman held extensive consultations with representatives of the administering Powers on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to him by the Special Committee.

4. The Acting Chairman informed the representatives of the administering Powers that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories as a means of securing firsthand information on those Territories. Furthermore, it was the understanding of the Committee that a number of territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive such missions.

5. The administering Powers consulted have reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all necessary information on the Territories under their respective administration in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. Those already participating in the work of the Special Committee have further assured the Acting Chairman that they would in principle continue to do so. As regards the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions, however, the same willingness was not displayed, and it appeared that in most cases, further consultations with the administering Powers concerned would be necessary.

6. The Acting Chairman was gratified to learn from one administering Power that the United Nations could be invited in 1992 to send another visiting mission to the Territory it administers, as soon as some technical problems have been solved.

7. Other administering Powers, however, pointed out that while they might be willing to examine the possibility of receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration, they considered it essential to first ascertain that the peoples of those Territories really wanted such missions and, if so, to determine the objectives of those missions on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, in their view, a clear demonstration by the Committee of its determination to concentrate its efforts exclusively on the well-being of the peoples of the remaining small Territories might facilitate the acceptance of such missions by all concerned.

8. In this connection, the Acting Chairman drew the attention of his interlocutors to the series of reforms undertaken by the Special Committee in recent months which were aimed at improving the Committee's efficiency and method of work in fulfilling its mandate. Thus, the full cooperation of the administering Powers would be an important complement to those efforts.

9. The administering Powers consulted indicated that they had followed with great interest and appreciation the efforts of the Special Committee to streamline and rationalize its work. They expressed the hope that the

conclusions and recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly would reflect those efforts, thereby paving the way for a renewed and closer cooperation of the administering Powers.

10. The Acting Chairman reiterated the Special Committee's conviction of the importance of the participation of all administering Powers in the work of the Committee and their readiness to receive United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their respective administration. With regard to visiting missions in particular, the Acting Chairman expressed the hope that the Special Committee would receive in the near future invitations from all administering Powers to send visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. It was agreed that the question should be kept under review and that further consultations should take place.

11. The Acting Chairman will keep the Special Committee apprised of any further developments in his consultations with the administering Powers concerned on this question.

Notes

1/ See A/45/23 (Part III), chap. IV, para. 11. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23).

Annex

VISITING MISSIONS DISPATCHED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OR BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1965	Cook Islands (elections supervision)
1966	Equatorial Guinea
1967	Aden
1968	Equatorial Guinea (referendum/elections supervision)
1971	Papua New Guinea (jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
1972	Niue Papua New Guinea (elections observation - jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
1974	Niue (referendum observation) Cocos (Keeling) Islands Gilbert and Ellice Islands (referendum observation)
1975	Cape Verde Montserrat Spanish Sahara
1976	British Virgin Islands Tokelau
1977	French Somaliland (referendum/elections observation) Cayman Islands United States Virgin Islands
1979	Guam New Hebrides
1980	Turks and Caicos Islands (April) Cocos (Keeling) Islands Turks and Caicos Islands (October/November) (elections observation)
1981	Tokelau American Samoa
1982	Montserrat
1984	Cocos (Keeling) Islands (act of self-determination) Anguilla
1986	Tokelau
1989	Namibia (elections observation)

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Acting Chairman on the question, 1/

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of colonial Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

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1/ A/AC.109/L.1757.

Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

4. Requests its Acting Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman

The Special Committee,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 1/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/16 of 20 November 1990 in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

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1/ A/AC.109/1080.

1. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. Decides, subject to any decision which the General Assembly might take in that connection, to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.